

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-08 NEA-06 RSC-01

AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-01

INR-05 INT-05 L-01 LAB-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

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EUR/RPE - JMCCARTHY

EB/ITP - BMOHLER

STR - LGRAEF

USDA/FAS - RGOODMAN

ARA/ECP CREYNOLDS (INFO)

EUR/CAN - EBROWN (INFO)

EA/J - WPEIZ (INFO)

EUR/EE - RCHRISTENSEN (SUBST)

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P 182141Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON MEAT

REFS: STATE 181890, BELGRADE 4938 NOTAL
ROME FOR FODAG

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: TWO DAY INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON MEAT
OCTOBER 15-16 IN WASHINGTON CONCLUDED WITH NO FORMAL
RESULT, BUT RECOGNITION BY MOST PARTICIPANTS (EC AND JAPAN
DEMURRING) THAT REGULAR FORM OF CONSULTATIONS ON MEAT
POLICY BY MAJOR EXPORTERS AND IMPORTERS WAS DESIRABLE.
BECAUSE OF INFORMAL NATURE OF MEETING NO AGREED COMMUNIQUE
WAS ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, BUT INDEPEN-
DENT CHAIRMAN'S (ORRIS WELLS) SUMMARY STATES THAT QTE IN
THE OPINION OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN, MOST OF THE
DELEGATIONS FELT THAT SIMILAR MEETINGS OR CONSULTATIONS
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GATT OR OTHERWISE, WERE DESIR-
ABLE IN THE FUTURE UNQTE. AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION CHAIRMAN
(HARRIS) TOLD US HE IS CONSIDERING RAISING ISSUE OF PER-
MANENT CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM ON MEAT AT GATT COUNCIL MEET-
ING OCTOBER 21, WHEN HE UNDERSTANDS ISSUE OF EC RESTRIC-
TIONS ON MEAT MAY BE RAISED. END SUMMARY

2. MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY DELEGATIONS FROM AUSTRALIA,
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NEW ZEALAND, CANADA, U.S., ARGENTINA, E.C., JAPAN, URUGUAY
AND MEXICO (REPRESENTING ITSELF AND CENTRAL AMERICAN STATES
AND PANAMA). LATTER TWO DELEGATIONS ADDED ONLY AT LAST

MINUTE FOLLOWING REPEATED REPRESENTATIONS BY THOSE STATES
TO AUSTRALIA, WHO ORGANIZED THE MEETING; U.S. ALSO MADE
REPRESENTATIONS TO AUSTRALIA ON BEHALF OF MEXICO AND
CENTRAL AMERICA.

3. FIRST DAY OF MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF SHORT-TERM AND MEDIUM-TERM SITUATION. IT WAS COMMON VIEW OF ALL DELEGATIONS THAT THE SHORT-TERM SITUATION WAS SERIOUS FOR PRODUCERS AND LIKELY TO REMAIN SO FOR SOME MONTHS TO COME, ALTHOUGH AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION FELT IMPROVEMENT IN PRESENT IMBALANCED SUPPLY/DEMAND SITUATION LIKELY TO COME IN EARLY 1975 WITH CONSEQUENT IMPROVEMENT IN PRICES RECEIVED BY PRODUCERS, WHILE U.S. EC AND JAPAN CONSIDERED OVERSUPPLY LIKELY TO CONTINUE INTO LATTER PART OF YEAR. MAJOR FACTORS OF CONCERN TO ALL DELEGATIONS WERE PRESENT LARGE BUILDUP OF HERDS PARTICULARLY IN U.S. AND AUSTRALIA, STRONG POSSIBILITY OF SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN SLAUGHTER AND MARKETING OF CATTLE IN FIRST HALF OF 1975 AND CONTINUED HIGH PRICES FOR FEEDGRAINS. EC ALSO STRESSED PROBLEM OF ITS CONTINUING LARGE MEAT STOCKS AND JAPANESE PLACED MAJOR EMPHASIS ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM RECENT OIL PRICE RISES WHICH LIMITED ITS ABILITY TO IMPORT.

4. IN DISCUSSION OF CURRENT POLICIES, EC AND JAPANESE IMPORT EMBARGOES CAME UNDER HEAVIEST ATTACK, PARTICULARLY BY SOUTH AMERICAN DELEGATIONS. GENERAL THRUST OF REMARKS BY U.S., AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND WAS NEED FOR ADVANCE DISCUSSION OF POLICIES BEFORE UNILATERAL ACTIONS WERE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS. U.S. ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT CONTINUED IMPORT RESTRICTIONS BY EC, JAPAN AND CANADA PUT U.S. IN INCREASINGLY UNTENABLE POSITION OF BEING ONLY REMAINING LARGE OPEN MARKET FOR BEEF. EC (RABOT) REFUSED TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSION OF POLICIES, MAINTAINING HIS MANDATE FOR MEETING LIMITED TO DISCUSSION OF CURRENT AND FUTURE SITUATION IN MEAT TRADE.

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5. FINAL HOURS OF MEETING ON OCT. 16 DEVOTED TO PROPOSAL MADE BY AUSTRALIAN DELEGATE (HARRIS) THAT GROUP CONSIDER RECOMMENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM ON MEAT. HARRIS SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT NO DELEGATION WAS IN A POSITION TO COMMIT ITS GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT IF PERSONAL REACTIONS BY DELEGATES WERE FAVORABLE AUSTRALIA WOULD BE PREPARED TO PURSUE IDEA IN INTERNATIONAL FORUM. DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT BEST MEANS OF SUMMARIZING INFORMAL VIEWS OF DELEGATIONS WOULD BE STATEMENT BY INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN (WELLS) OF MEETING, WHICH AUSTRALIANS COULD THEN CITE IN LATER FOLLOWUP.

6. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS, AUSTRALIANS PROPOSED FORMATION OF GROUP UNDER GATT AUSPICIES OF LIMITED NUMBER (TO BE LARGER THAN GROUP ATTENDING PRESENT MEET-

ING, BUT LIMITED TO MAJOR IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS) TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS ON POLICY AND EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MARKET DEVELOPMENTS ON REGULAR BASIS. THIS GROUP WOULD NOT DUPLICATE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES (SUCH AS FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON MEAT), BUT PROVIDE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ON MAJOR MARKET AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS LIKELY TO IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN MEAT. QUESTION OF RELATIONSHIP OF GROUP TO MTN NEGOTIATIONS ON MEAT LEFT OPEN, AND WOULD DEPEND UPON WHAT MODALITIES MTN NEGOTIATORS EVENTUALLY AGREE ON FOR AGRICULTURE IN GENERAL AND MEAT IN PARTICULAR. MOST DELEGATIONS WELCOMED AUSTRALIAN INITIATIVE, ALTHOUGH LATIN DELEGATIONS FELT THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM SHOULD BE VIEWED AS ONLY FIRST STEP TOWARD GREATER COORDINATION OF PRODUCTION AND STOCKS POLICIES BY COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING. U.S. DEL (DEPT ASST SECY KATZ) SUPPORTED ON PERSONAL BASIS AND SAID HE THOUGHT USG WOULD BE PREPARED ENDORSE IDEA FORMALLY AT LATER GATT MEETING ON SUBJECT. EC TOOK NO POSITION, ALTHOUGH SAID IT WOULD NOT OBJECT TO STATEMENT BY INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN, PROVIDED THAT STATEMENT DID NOT SUGGEST ALL DELEGATIONS AGREED AND THAT QUESTION OF GATT AS FORUM NOT SPECIFICALLY ENDORSED. JAPAN DEL SAID HE PERSONALLY SAW NO NEED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW GROUP, SAYING FAO GROUP AND BI-LATERAL CONSULTATIONS ADEQUATE, BUT THAT ANOTHER AD HOC MEETING WOULD BE DESIRABLE. ALL DELS AGREED THAT MEMBERSHIP AT NEXT MEETING SHOULD BE BROADER THAN GROUP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF NINE REPRESENTED AT PRESENT CONFERENCE. CHAIRMAN'S FINAL STATEMENT, QUOTED IN SUMMARY IN PARA 1 ABOVE, REPRESENTS EFFORT TO REFLECT THESE DIFFERENCES IN APPROACH.

7. FOR GENEVA: IF AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO COUNCIL MEETING ON OCT. 21 RAISES ISSUE OF GATT-SPONSORED MEETING TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM ON MEAT, YOU CAN SUPPORT, INDICATING THAT WHILE USG NOT YET IN POSITION TO FORMALLY ENDORSE SUCH AN ORGANIZATION WE BELIEVE TIME MAY BE RIPE FOR SUCH A GROUP AND ARE INTERESTED IN EARLY MEETING TO HAVE ISSUE FORMALLY CONSIDERED BY GOVERNMENTS. WE BELIEVE GATT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FORUM TO ESTABLISH SUCH A GROUP, SINCE TRADE ISSUES ARE THE CRUCIAL ONES WHICH INTERNATIONAL GROUP ON MEAT WOULD CONSIDER.

8. FOR BELGRADE: YOU MAY BRIEF GOY ON RESULTS OF OCT. 15-16 MEETING AS REPORTED ABOVE. YOU MAY ALSO INDICATE THAT EXPANDED GROUP NOW CONTEMPLATED UNDER GATT AUSPICES WOULD BE OPEN TO OTHER NATIONS WITH IMPORTANT INTERESTS

IN MEAT TRADE AND THAT ASSUMPTION OF U.S. AND OTHERS

PARTICIPATING IN WASHINGTON MEETING IS THAT YUGOSLAVIA
WOULD BE INCLUDED IN NEW GROUP. KISSINGER

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